

'Wettest month' ends

# Power out for 5,500

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More than 5,500 homes in Washtenaw and western Wayne counties were without power for several hours early today when power lines were knocked down by high winds in an overnight storm.

The storm dumped about 2 inches of rain on the area.

An Augusta Township volunteer observer for the National Weather Service said 1.5 inches of rain fell on Wednesday, the last day of September, ending "the wettest month ever" on his records since 1929.

Stanley Helzerman, 13590 Tuttle Hill, said 8.97 inches of rain fell last month. The next heaviest rainfall was in May 1943 when 8.25 inches fell.

Several roads in the Ypsilanti area were flooded, said Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner Jim Murray.

As much as 8 inches of rain was reported in some southern Michigan communities, snarling morning rush-hour traffic on Detroit freeways and forcing isolated evacuations.

In Farmington Hills, seven feet of water flooded the Red Roof Inn and 60 guests were evacuated. Schools were closed in Shiawassee County because many secondary roads were washed out.

Downed Detroit Edison wires on Ridge cut power to 2,400 homes in the southeastern Superior, northern Ypsilanti and western Canton townships from 1 to 4 a.m. today, according to Paul Rogers of the utility.

Rogers said those customers were again without power from 7 to 9 a.m. while repairs were made to a circuit.

More than 900 customers in Pittsfield Township were without power from 5:25 to 6:30 a.m. because of wires down at Ellsworth and Carpenter, Rogers said.

Another 200 customers in the Collegewood-Washtenaw area were without power from 1 a.m. to mid-morning.

A few other power outages were reported in Washtenaw County, Rogers said, but crews still were checking them.

The customers without power in western Wayne were in an area from

Northville south to Sumpter Township. Bob Baldwin of Detroit Edison said there were too many isolated cases to give details, but the outages generally were caused by lightning hitting transformers.

Most of the customers had power returned by this morning.

Flooding was reported on Clark east of Hogback, Washtenaw near Golfside, East Michigan at Ecorse and Grove at Harris, Murray said.

County crews were dispatched to free up storm sewers of clogged leaves, he said. A few of the areas were still under water this morning, he said.

Rivers in the county, including the Huron, will not crest for another 18 to 36 hours, Murray said.

The National Weather Service is continuing a flash flood watch today for all of southeastern Michigan.

The service's Detroit office reported .88 inches of rain Wednesday and .77 more inches from midnight to 8 a.m. Wednesday night's winds were 37 mph.

Rain and thundershowers are expected to continue today, but fair skies are forecast for the weekend.



Press photo by Wayne Behling

*Helzerman measures September's rain*